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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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## HERNIA AND WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT DECIDES THAT AN EMPLOYEE WHO SUFFERED FROM A HERNIA WAS ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION.

The Supreme Court of Michigan has reaffirmed a previous decision<sup>1</sup> that occupational diseases are not included within the terms of the Michigan workmen's compensation law, but the court has also decided that an employee who suffered from hernia, which was discovered shortly after severe muscular exertion and strain, was entitled to compensation, on the ground that the hernia was the result of an "accidental injury."

The essential parts of the opinion are published in this issue of the Public Health Reports, page 2375.

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## PREVALENCE OF POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS).

The undue prevalence of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) seems to be still limited for the most part to New York City and communities in the vicinity. The disease has not spread much in epidemic form. Many States have actually reported this year fewer cases than during the corresponding period of 1915. A list has been made of the cities which have reported five or more cases of the disease during any one week this year. The number of cases reported in the cities is shown. The 122 cases reported in Chicago is relatively a small number considering the population of the city. The 78 cases reported in Toledo seem to be the greatest number in proportion to the population occurring at a distance from New York City.

If any inference may be drawn from the number of cases being reported from week to week, it would be that the prevalence of the disease has begun to diminish.

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<sup>1</sup> Public Health Reports Reprint 342, p. 82.